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5 April 1948 *me 8*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Subject: Foreign Document Exploitation - Proposed NSCID No. 8

1. ICAPS has tried again to get unanimous agreement in the so-called "Standing Committee" on a proposed National Security Council Intelligence Directive on the above subject and was again unsuccessful. This matter first came up in 1946 with regard to Exploitation of Enemy Document Repositories which, I believe, subsequently was taken care of in a bilateral agreement with the War Department. We understand that those captured documents are now largely of academic interest only and that many of them are in the process of being declassified; so our latest endeavor was to include in an overall agreement the translating, abstracting and indexing of foreign press and periodicals, and other current foreign documents.

2. If you wish to make an issue of it, on the basis of a "service of common concern," (Section 102 (d)(4) of the Act), you probably will have good grounds to stand on. There is a memorandum in the files from the General Counsel, dated 7 January 1948, about the Agency representatives maintaining the fiction of the Director of Central Intelligence having no control but being merely an equal among equals; i.e., cooperation in their expressed opinion being the same as coordination.

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4. Apparently, however, we cannot get the customary agreement (as outlined in NSCID No. 1) for making such a recommendation to the National Security Council, and I am not convinced of the necessity of making an issue of this matter and taking it up direct with the National Security Council outside of the IAC.

SECRET

SECRET

5. ICAPS recommends, therefore, that the proposed NSCID No. 8, "Foreign Document Exploitation" be abandoned and that this work continue to be done by working level agreement under NSCID No. 3, "Coordination of Intelligence Production." Otherwise CIA would do but little, since the IAC agencies would not tell the NSC to have CIA perform any services!!

6. Is it too much to hope that the Inspectors will do something to clarify Section 102(d) of the Act and NSCID No. 1 and effect the active cooperation of the Departments? The IAC may already realize that the automobile is here to stay but as yet they do not take that liberal attitude towards a central intelligence agency!

PRESCOTT CHILDS
Chief, ICAPS

cc: Ass't. Director, OO
General Counsel

May 12th 1948
Letter considered closed
as nothing received from Director.
See Letter of Apr 13 from State. P2

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